



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124559
Inspection date	28 October 2005
Inspector	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 7 and 9 years old. They live in a 2-bedroom house, in a residential area of South Croydon, within walking distance of shops, station and schools. All of the house is used for childminding, with the downstairs the main area for play. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for 4 children under 8-years-old and there are currently 2 children under 8-years-old on roll. The childminder also cares for 3 children who are aged 8-years and over. Children all attend on a part-time basis,

before and after school and during the holidays.

The family have one pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children take part in a variety of activities that encourage the development of physical skills and contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy going on outings to the park, walking through the woods and playing with a good range of equipment in the garden.

Children learn about the importance of good hygiene practices through established daily routines. They know, for example, that they must wash their hands before they have a snack, and that they shouldn't drink from the same cup 'because of germs'. This reduces the risk of cross-contamination. The childminder plans and prepares varied and nutritious meals and snacks that meet children's dietary needs. Children are encouraged to learn about the benefits of eating healthily, for instance when they all help prepare fruit for lunch or a snack.

Children's health is protected because the childminder has clear procedures for keeping records of any accidents that occur or any medicine children may need. She makes sure her first aid certificate is up-to-date, which ensures she can respond quickly to any minor accidents or injuries.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move freely and safely around the home because the childminder takes effective steps to minimise any potential hazards. For instance, she makes sure cleaning materials and medicines are out of children's reach. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder is vigilant about supervising them at all times, and knows what to do if she has any child protection concerns. They are generally protected from the risk of fire because smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place. The childminder has thought about the best way to evacuate the house if there was a fire, but has not yet practised this with the children. This means that they may not be able to act as quickly in an emergency.

Children choose from a good variety of toys and resources for indoor and outdoor play. Resources are checked regularly to make sure they are safe, clean and in good condition. This ensures they are suitable for the children to use. Toys are organised so that children can select them for themselves, which helps create a welcoming environment. For instance, play materials are stored in boxes and a toy cupboard in the rooms where they are used, and there is clear space to set up games in the living room.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and comfortable at the childminder's home. They benefit from warm relationships with the childminder, who knows them well. This helps build their confidence and contributes to their emotional wellbeing.

Children take part in a good variety of activities and first-hand experiences that support their learning and development. They enjoy taking part in planned activities and outings, as well as choosing games, books and play materials independently at the childminder's home. They talk enthusiastically about recent outings and events, such as a trip to the museum or a visit to the park. They show pleasure, laughing and making jokes, as they all join in with a board game, and they are excited about the prospect of making models after lunch. Children are occupied and stimulated throughout the time they spend with the childminder, there is plenty to do and time to rest, play or be active according to their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from positive working relationships between the childminder and their parents. They talk to each other on a daily basis to share information about the children. This helps children experience consistent care and feel settled and secure at the childminder's house. Children behave well, showing consideration when they help younger children with a board game or say thank you politely for their drink and snack.

All children are welcomed into the provision and respected as individuals. Their needs are taken into account which helps them all take part in activities. Children are encouraged to develop a positive view of the wider community, for instance through books, discussion and stories and by playing with resources that reflect positive images of diversity.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder keeps most of the records that contribute to the health, safety and well-being of the children. The records that are kept are well organised, up-to-date and regularly reviewed with parents. The childminder has not yet asked parents' to confirm in writing their agreement for their children to be transported in her car. This means there is no clear record of agreed arrangements about this issue.

Children are settled and secure in the childminder's home. They can make the most of the opportunities available because the home is organised so that they can easily access play materials and there is space for them to play or rest according to their needs. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has attended a course about children's play that was run by the local authority, in order to continually develop and update her childcare skills and practice.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- improve fire safety precautions by practising the emergency escape plan with minded children
- obtain written consent from parents to take children in the car

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk